

(Received via e-mail)

From: "Doug Barr"
To: <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: <comments@RubiconTrailFoundation.org>
Date: 2/18/2009 11:46 AM
Subject: Rubicon Trail - March 12th meeting

Sue,

I would like to take a few moments to address the Abatement Order.

I disagree that the Rubicon Trail is currently being mis-managed by El Dorado County. Tom Celio is currently managing the Rubicon Trail from the DOT. An extreme amount of progress in management and maintenance has taken place since he took over.

Since 2001, a tremendous amount of work has been done on the Rubicon Trail within El Dorado and Placer counties not the minimal amount mentioned in "Background #5". Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR) can supply you with the volunteer hours logged each year since they were formed.

"35,000 vehicles access the Rubicon Trail entry areas during the three summer months." That's 388 vehicles a day, every day, mid-week included! Yet on the 4th of July 2005, you only counted 372. Do you think you might have a small problem with your numbers? I think you have a problem with your numbers.

There are now toilet facilities at Loon lake due to the efforts of the trail users. We wanted and worked for these toilets. Prior to the toilets being installed (and still ongoing), the trail users handed out W.A.G. bags to those entering the trail. These W.A.G. bags were provided by El Dorado County from a grant. In 2004 there was human being left around Spider Lake but there was NEVER a positive test for fecal mater in the water. Again the users stepped up and cleaned up the human waste at Spider Lake.

Low levels of oil were found along the trail, but were they ever found IN the water? Has there been a study done regarding the oil left on Highway 50 and finding its way in to the American River? I'd be really curious to see those results. Oil Spill Kits are handed out at Loon Lake to Rubicon Trail users. These are provided by El Dorado County again from a grant.

Sediment: "Likely" discharged, you need to measure what actually reaches the water. "Assumed to be 100% annually, since the trail segments discharge directly in to the channel network." Unless the channel network is stainless steel, you are not going to get 100% annually. These reports are skewed by the anti-OHV groups who are trying to shut down our legal access to our public roads and lands.

Drainage maintenance efforts take place every year due to the changes brought ever winter. This has been going on for years on both the El Dorado and Place ends of the Trail. If there are specific places along the trail that you have identified as needing work, please contact Tom Celio and it will be fixed.

Ellis Creek is already scheduled to receive a bridge. Thus you might as well throw out that section of your report.

You are being played by the anti-OHV groups. They are NOT environmentalists. They claim there is a problem with the Rubicon Trail but ask them how many volunteer hours they have logged to fix the problem. ZERO! They are closurists. I am an environmentalist. I want green trees, blue waters and healthy animals. I annually log scores of hours of work on the Rubicon Trail. During the March 12th meeting, please do not refer to them as anything but anti-OHV or anti-access individuals.

As the President of the Lake Tahoe 4wd Club, I am against closure of this trail for any reason. If a water issue can be identified on the Trail then it can be fixed. This has been proven again and again by FOTR in the Rubicon Oversight Committee that is run by El Dorado County.

Most of the issues brought up in your report have already been addressed or are being addressed. I have no problem with you continuing to monitor the situation but closures or vehicle limits will not be supported.